

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 9, 11, 14 and 16-19 are amended. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3-7 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims are revised to clarify the noted informalities regarding the variables. Additionally, claims 5 and 13 are supported by Fig. 3 and pages 27-29 and now recite "within a color gamut." Claims 3-7 and 11-15 are concise and definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 1-4, 8-12, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,331,440 (Kita); claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kita in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,508,827 (Po-chieh); and claims 6, 7, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kita in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,857,063 (Poe). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kita fails to disclose or suggest "a color image processing method for converting a first color signal including three variables into a second color signal including N variables, where N is an integer, which is not smaller than 5, "as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 17, 18 and 19.

The Office Action alleges that Kita teaches in Fig. 1 a first color signal including three variables ($L^*a^*b^*$) and a second color signal that includes variables Yout Nout Cout, and Kout ($N = 4$). The Office Action further alleges that a first conversion of determining ($N - 3$) variables of the second color signal is actually black color and is disclosed by the full black

conversion means and black quantity adjusting means in Fig. 1. However, Kita's Fig. 1 embodiment appears to convert to a color signal with exactly 4 colors.

Kita fails to disclose or provide a reason to have a second color signal including N variables where N is equal to or greater than 5. Po-chieh and Poe fail to overcome the deficiencies of Kita with respect to the independent claims.

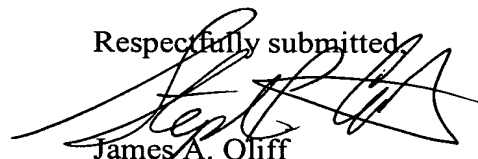
For at least the above reason, claims 1, 9, 17, 18 and 19 are patentable over Kita. Claims 2-6 and 10-16 depend from one of claims 1 and 9, and are therefore also patentable for their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 25, 2008

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